1) Publication number:

0 332 289 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

- 21 Application number: 89301027.2
- 2 Date of filing: 02.02.89

(9) Int. CI.4 C07C 5/48 , C07C 11/04 , C07C 11/02

- (3) Priority: 08.03.88 GB 8805447
- (3) Date of publication of application: 13.09.89 Bulletin 89/37
- Designated Contracting States:
 BE DE FR GB IT NL

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- A process for the production of mono-olefins by the catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbons having two or more carbon atoms.
- A process for preparing mono-olefins by catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of eg ethane, propane or butanes is provided. The process employs a catalyst which is capable of supporting combustion beyond the normal fuel rich limit of flammability. Preferred catalysts are platinum group metals supported on a monolith eg platinum.

EP 0

A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MONO-OLEFINS BY THE CATALYTIC OXIDATIVE DEHYDRO-GENATION OF GASEOUS PARAFFINIC HYDROCARBONS HAVING TWO OR MORE CARBON ATOMS

The present invention relates in general to the production of mono-olefins by the catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbons having 2 or more carbon atoms and in particular to the production of mono-olefins by the catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of ethane, propane and butanes.

The prior art on the oxidative conversion of gaseous paraffins to mono-olefins can be broadly divided into two groups, depending on the temperatures employed. At low temperatures, typically below 500°C, oxidative dehydrogenation is generally a genuinely catalytic process. This is exemplified by US-A-4524236 and EP-A-0189282. In the process of US-A-4524236 ethane/oxygen mixtures are passed over catalysts comprising mixed oxides of molybdenum, vanadium, niobium and antimony (optionally incorporating a wide range of additional metals). Reaction takes place at temperatures in the range from 350 to 400 °C to give high selectivities to ethylene (i.e. 70% selectivity to ethylene at 75% ethane conversion). These catalysts produce only carbon oxides from higher paraffins. EP-A-0189282 discloses the use of a tin/phosphorus oxide catalyst in the production of mono-olefins from ethane, propane or butane in admixture with oxygen. Although reaction temperatures in the range 200 to 700°C are disclosed, the working embodiment uses a temperature of only 550°C.

At higher temperatures, for example temperatures greater than 500°C, it is unlikely that reaction is entirely heterogeneous. At such temperatures thermal cracking and gas phase oxidations are likely to assume increasing importance. An example of prior art relevant to the high temperature reaction is US-A-3541179 which discloses passing a paraffinic gas through an externally heated fluid bed of "fire resistant" particles containing from 0.5 to 20% wt of at least one of the metals copper, manganese or vanadium. An oxygen-containing gas is injected into the fluid bed. The reaction temperature is from 650 to 900 °C and the process is at least partially autothermal. At a molar ratio of C₂H₆:0₂ of 2.6:1 and about 840 °C about 90% of the ethane feed is converted to ethylene.

There are also a number of processes that do not involve catalysts at all. These are genuine high temperature autothermal cracking reactions and are exemplified by, for example, an article entitled "Autothermal Cracking for Ethylene Production" by R.M. Deanesly in Petrol. Refiner, 29 (September, 1950), 217 and GB-A-794,157.

A desirable objective would be to convert ethane, propane or butanes in a single step to mono-olefins.

Recently, the production of olefins together with carbon monoxide and hydrogen from gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbons, including ethane, by partial oxidation in spouted or fluid bed reactors has been disclosed in, for example, our copending applications EP-A-0164864 and EP-A-0178853.

The present invention provides a process for the production of a mono-olefin from a gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbon having at least two carbon atoms or a mixture thereof which process comprises partially combusting a mixture of the hydrocarbon(s) and a molecular oxygen-containing gas in contact with a catalyst capable of supporting combustion beyond the normal fuel rich limit of flammability.

As the gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbon there may suitably be used either ethane, propane or a butane. or a mixture of two or more thereof. A suitable feedstock hydrocarbon is a mixture of gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbons, principally comprising ethane resulting from the separation of methane from natural gas.

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As the molecular oxygen-containing gas there may suitably be used either oxygen or air. It is preferred to use oxygen, optionally diluted with an inert gas, for example nitrogen. It is preferred to pre-mix the oxygen-containing gas and the paraffinic hydrocarbon prior to contact with the catalyst. Additionally, other feed components may be included if so desired to optimise process design. Examples of other suitable feed components include methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and water.

The preferred composition of the gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbon/molecular oxygen-containing gas mixture is from 5.0 to 9.0 times the stoichiometric ratio of hydrocarbon to oxygen for complete combustion to carbon dioxide and water, but these limits are extendible if desired. Typically, commercial reactors would be operated at pressures of approximately 1-5 bar above atmospheric.

A catalyst capable of supporting combustion beyond the normal fuel rich limit of flammability is employed. Suitable catalysts comprise supported platinum group metals and mixtures thereof, for example supported platinum or palladium. Although a range of support materials may be used, it is preferred to use an alumina as the support. The support material may be in the form of spheres or other granular shapes, but is preferably in the form of a monolith. Monoliths are continuous multichannel ceramic structures, frequently of a honeycomb appearance. They are commercially available as similar materials are commonly used as catalytic convertors in automobile exhausts. A preferred form of alumina-supported platinum catalyst is platinum/gamma-alumina spheres. A more preferred form of supported platinum catalyst is a

platinum/monolith, for example a platinum/cordierite or mullite monolith. Cordierite has a material composition of 2 Mg0.2Al₂0₃.5Si0₂ whilst mullite has a material composition of 3Al₂O₃ 2SiO₂. The catalyst may suitably be prepared by impregnating the support with a solution of a soluble compound of the platinum group metal. Using a monolith catalyst, this may suitably be achieved by soaking the monolith in a solution of a soluble compound, for example a salt, of the metal, removing the monolith from the solution and drying, typically at about 120°C. Using the simple soaking method it is difficult to achieve high, i.e. greater than about 0.15% metal loadings. Although such a metal loading is adequate for the performance of the invention, in certain circumstances higher loadings may be desirable. A higher loading may be achieved by wash coating the monolith prior to immersion in the solution of the catalytic metal compound with a material, for example alumina, capable of facilitating the retention of the metal compound. A combustion catalyst in the form of a metallic gauze such as Pt/Rh may also be employed.

The catalyst in the form of spheres may be used as a solids recirculating bed, for example a fluid bed or a spouted bed.

A process for producing synthesis gas, i.e. carbon monoxide/hydrogen mixtures, from a reaction mixture comprising a saturated hydrocarbon and an oxygen-containing gas in a spouted bed, the bed comprising material which is catalytically active for steam reforming reactions, is described in our copending EP-A-0164864. The process described in EP-A-0164864, which is incorporated by reference herein, may be modified by the use of a catalyst capable of supporting combustion beyond the normal fuel rich limit of flammability, for example a supported platinum group metal(s) as hereinbefore described, instead of the steam reforming catalyst and the conditions modified in accordance with the process of the present invention to produce a mono-olefin as the principal product of the process. In a preferred embodiment of the modified process of EP-A-0164864, hydrogen is co-fed to the process as described in our copending EP-A-0178853 which is also incorporated by reference herein.

It is preferred to use the catalyst in a fixed bed. One reason for this preference is that it largely avoids the attrition problems generally encountered in moving bed operations. In the context of fixed bed operation it is further preferred to use a monolith catalyst. Monolith catalysts are preferred over other forms of fixed bed catalyst because (1) they are capable of sustaining a very low pressure drop along the bed, thereby allowing large gas throughputs. (2) they present a high surface area to the gaseous combustion mixture, (3) they are particularly free from attrition problems, (4) they can result in very low levels of soot formation and as a result require less frequent de-coking and (5) they are available in various cell sizes and snapes and their preparation by the soaking technique is relatively simple.

The elevated temperature employed in the process of the invention may suitably be in the range from 500 to 1200°C, though temperatures in the upper part of this range, for example 800 to 1000°C are preferred.

It is preferred but not essential to co-feed hydrogen gas. By so-doing the yields of and selectivities to desirable products can be improved. It is also preferred but not essential to preheat the feed gas, a suitable temperature being in the range 300 to 500°C.

In a preferred embodiment the present invention provides a process for the production of ethylene from ethane which process comprises contacting a mixture comprising ethane and oxygen in an ethane to oxygen molar ratio of 1.7 to 2.1 with a platinum- or palladium-containing monolith fixed bed catalyst.

In addition to ethylene, small amounts of higher olefins, acetylenes, aromatics and carbon oxides, i.e. carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide are co-produced.

The process of the invention will now be further illustrated by reference to the following Examples.

Example A - Preparation of Pt/cordierite monolith

A cordierite monolith (ex CORNING) was soaked in a solution of [(NH₃)₄Pt]Cl₂.H₂0. After 2 weeks the Pt impregnated monolith was removed from the solution, allowed to drain and dried in air at 120°C. The platinum loading, as determined by X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy was about 0.1% w/w.

Example 1

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The Pt-loaded monolith (approximately 38 mm diameter x 51 mm length) was placed at the bottom of a quartz, 51 mm diameter, reactor with a baffle placed beneath it. The baffle ensured that the incoming flow of feed gas became evenly distributed through all cells in the monolith. Ethane, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen were preheat of the feed gases was required to effect autothermal operation, substantial heat

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generation being provided by the highly exothermic combustion of hydrogen/oxygen. Details of the molar proportions of the feed, the flow rates and the results obtained are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

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	Total Flow	C ₂ H ₅ ,O ₂	H ₂ /O ₂	N ₂ /O ₂	Maximum Temperature (* C)	Conversion (% mol)		Se	electiv	ity (%	C mo	ol) 	
	, ,,,,,,						C ₂ H ₄	C ₂ H ₂	CH₄	CO	CO₂	C3'C4	C ₆ H ₆
-	16.0	1.99	1.86	0.65	841	70.0	72.3	0.4	8.3	13.7	1.1	3.7	0.4
\vdash	27.7	1.90	1.86	0.72	-	72.2	72.8	0.5	8.3	14.0	1.0	3.1	0.3
-	36.8	1.82	1.88	0.63	855	79.8	70.0	0.9	9.3	15.2	0.9	3.2	0.5

Example 2

Into a 51 mm diameter quartz reactor was placed a catalyst in the form of previously calcined Pt gamma-alumina spheres (2 mm diameter), supported on a coarse silica sintered disc.

Ethane, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen were passed over the catalyst in the molar proportions and under the conditions shown in Table 2. Also tabulated in Table 2 are the experimental results. No soot formation was observed.

Example 3

In the following example, 0.5% Pt/Pd loaded alumina spheres (1.7 mm diameter) were placed into a quartz reactor (25 mm diameter). The catalyst was supported on a course silica sintered disc.

The appropriate paraffinic feedstock, ethane, propane or butane, or mixtures thereof, was co-fed with oxygen and nitrogen over the catalyst in the proportions and under the conditions shown in the following tables (3-4). Methane and hydrogen were also co-fed in some experiments.

The tables also show the experimental results, in which selectivities have been calculated on a soot free basis. Minimal soot formation was observed.

Example 4

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In the following example, the monolith or gauze was placed in a quartz reactor (25 mm diameter) and the catalyst was supported on a course silica disc.

Ethane, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen were co-fed over the catalyst in the molar proportions and under the conditions shown in the following tables (7-9).

Tables 7 to 9 also show experimental results in which selectivities have been calculated on a soot-free basis. No soot formation was observed.

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Fotal Flow	C2H6/02	H ₂ /O ₂	N ₂ /O ₂	Maximum	Conversion			Selec	Selectivity (%C-mol)	C-mot)		
nl/min ⁻¹ ·				Temperature (°C)	(Jom %)							
		4				C ₂ H ₄	C ₂ H ₂	CH4	00	CO2	C3/C4	C ₆ H ₆
27.8	1.75	2.45	92.0	887	72.1	62.6	•	4.3	29.0	2.1	1.9	0.2
37.4	1.78	2.47	0.56	916	79.1	66.3	•	5.7	23.4	1.5	2.1	0.1
55.3	1.90	1.99	0.57	922	80.4	68.9		6.4	19.8	4.	5.6	0.1
27.3	1.76	2.38	0.75	933	74.9	64.8		4.3	26.9	5.0	1.2	0.1
37.0	1.78	2.45	0.54	980	81.4	68.8		5.7	20.5	1.3	2.3	0.1
55.0	1.89	1.96	0.55	. 983	82.2	71.2		5.9	17.3	1.2	3.0	0.2
27.7	1.75	2.43	0.74	933	69.1	58.4		3.5	33.6	3.2	ر. دن	
37 B	1 78	2 47	0.65	477	77.3	67.8	•	4.7	23.0	8	2.0	0.1

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TABLE 3

1	1	C3H8 H2	Н2	N ₂						Selec	tivit	y (%C	Selectivity (%C-mol)				
Example	Example GHSV (n 1)		1	1	Conversion (Imol)								other				
		02 02		02		ខ	200	CH4	C_2H_4	C2H6	C2H2	C3H6	င္ဒ	C4	C4-	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	C ₅₊
3A .	235200	1.41		0.48	87.3	17.4	3.9	16.7	9.07	3.2	0.9	14.1	0.2	0.1	0.8	17.4 3.9 16.7 40.6 3.2 0.9 14.1 0.2 0.1 0.8 2.0	0.1
3B	238800	1.65		0.51	73.6	15.5	4.5	14.8	36.4	3.5	0.5	19.9	0.2	0.3	1.9	2.2	0.3
30	256800	1.15	1.15 1.96	0.44	98.9	13.0	1.1	23.4	47.5	2.4	2.8	4.6	9.0	;	.0.3	2.5	1.8
30	262800	1.29		0.54	88.8	7.2	0.8	21.8	47.0	3.4	0.0	13.3	4.0	0.3	1:1	1.8	2.0

Autothermal cracking of propane over 0.5% Pt/Pd/Al203

TABLE 4

í		70F	H2	N ₂	Ţ				7	Sel	ectiv	ity (Selectivity (%C-mol)	(T			
example	Example GHSV (n ·)	02	02	00	Conversion (Xmol)	1	CO ₂	CH4	C2H4	C2H6	C2H2	С3Н8	СЗН6	CO CO ₂ CH ₄ C ₂ H ₆ C ₂ H ₂ C ₃ H ₈ C ₃ H ₆ C ₃ nC ₄ C ₄ C ₅₊	nC4	- ⁷ 2	C ₅₊
3E	194400	1.06		0.37	90.9	18.7 6.1 22.7 17.8 2.1 1.3 0.2 25.2 1.3	6.1	22.7	17.8	2.1	1.3	0.2	25.2	1.3	ı	- 4.7 -	•
3F	198000	1.32		0.39	74.9	13.9 6.6 16.1 8.8 1.4 0.4 0.2 30.7 1.6	6.6	16.1	8.8	1.4	7.0	0.2	30.7	1.6	ı	- 20.0 0.3	0.3
36	235200	1.04 2.	_	3 0.44	94.2	11.8 2.0 28.3 24.3 2.0 1.8 0.2 17.2 1.0	2.0	28.3	24.3	2.0	1.8	0.2	17.2	1.0	·	- 10.7 0.7	0.7
ЭН.	264000	1.18 2.		11 0.43	72.4	9.3	2.3	22.9	14.8	1.7	9.0	0.3	36.6	9.3 2.3 22.9 14.8 1.7 0.6 0.3 36.6 1.3 0.2 10.0 -	0.2	10.0	1
												_					

Autothermal cracking of iso-butane over 0.5% Pt/Pd/Al₂O₃

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TABLE 5

		nC4	H2	N2						Sele	ctivi	Selectivity (%C-mol)	C-mol				
Example	Example GHSV (h ⁻¹)		1	1	Conversion (Imol)									other			
		02	02	02		8	C02	CH4	C2H4	С2Н6	C2H2	CO CO ₂ CH ₄ C ₂ H ₆ C ₂ H ₂ C ₃ H ₈ C ₃ H ₆ C ₃	СЗН6	ပ္	ic4	ic4 c4	C5+
3.1	182400	9		0.52	98.8	19.0	4.0	14.8	45.5	2.5	1.8	0.4	8.1	9.0	1	- 3.0 0.3	0.3
33	178800	1.16		0.58	88.1	14.2 4.6 12.5 39.4 3.6 0.8 0.6 18.4 0.5	4.6	12.5	39.4	3.6	0.8	0.6	18.4	0.5	tr	tr 5.0 0.4	7.0
3K	260400	1.17 2.		22 0.51	82.8	6.2	1.3	14.6	42.0	ص	7.0	0.7	22.0	0.5	1.8	6.7	0.3
31.	254400	1.45 2.		24 0.54	63.6	4.4	1.2	13.8	36.2	4.1	0.2	4.4 1.2 13.8 36.2 4.1 0.2 0.8 30.5 0.2	30.5	0.5	0.7 7.4 0.5	7.4	0.5

Autothermal cracking of n-butane over 0.5% Pt/Pd/Al203

TABLE 6

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Example	Example GHSV (h ⁻¹)	СН4/С2Н6/С3Н	H ₂	Feed	hydroca alt Ion	Feed hydrocarbon CONVERSIC composition (Zwt) (Zmol)	CONVI	ERSION to 1)			Sele	ict 1v i	ty ()	Selectivity (AC-mol)			
,		ć	٤	. [ļ	
		(%mol)	7	CH4	C2H6	СЗНВ	C2H6	Сзнв	3	C02	CH4	C2H4	C2H2	C3H6	CH4 C2H6 C3H8 C2H6 C3H8 CO CO2 CH4 C2H4 C2H2 C3H6 other C3 C4 C5+	- ⁷ ′	C ₅₊
,,,													I				
XI Y	388400	08.1.		17.6	32.8	17.6 32.8 49.6 93.2 99.9 30.8 4.1 13.6 45.6 5.2	93.2	6.66	30.8	4.1	13.6	45.6	5.2	1	0.5	0.5	,
38	340800	2.12		17.4	32.4	17.4 32.4 50.2 74.4 96.1 24.4 4.4 12.7 53.3 1.5 1.6	74.4	96.1	24.4	4.4	12.7	53.3	1.5	1.6		8	•
32	344400	2.45		17.2	32.2	17.2 32.2 50.6 54.4 84.4 21.3 5.5 11.1 51.7 0.7 6.4	54.4	84.4	21.3	5.5	11.1	51.7	0.7	7.9	7 0	, ,	2 7 0 2
30	358800		1.67	18.1	33.3	1.67 18.1 33.3 48.6 85.5 99.3 19.3 1.3 17.4 58.5 1.6	85.5	99.3	19.3	1.3	17.4	58.5	1.6	,		7	7.0
38	357600	2.46	1.65	17.8	33.0	49.2	61.5	91.1	12.6	.3	14.9	62.1	1.6	4.5		2 . 5	2 5 0 4
38	352800		1.69	17.6	33.1	1.69 17.6 33.1 49.4 43.4 75.2 10.4 1.3 13.5 59.6 0.4 10.9	43.4	75.2	10.4	1.3	13.5	59.6	0.4	10.9	0.3	3 .	3.0

utothermal cracking of mixed methane/ethane/propane feeds over 0.5% Pt/Pd/Al203

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TABLE 7

		C2H6 H2	Н2	N2			H	C-mol	XC-mol Selectivity	ctivi	ty		
Example	Example Total Flow (1/min)	02 02 02	02	02	Conversion (Imol)	ł	c02	СН4	С2Н4	C2H2	C3 's	CO CO ₂ CH ₄ C ₂ H ₂ C ₃ 's C ₄ 's C ₅₊	C ₅₊
4A 4B 4C 4B	16.9 16.8 22.9 22.3	1.79 - 0.29 1.98 - 0.31 1.83 2.16 0.32 1.83 1.74 0.32	1.79 - 0.29 1.98 - 0.31 1.83 2.16 0.32 1.83 1.74 0.32	0.29 0.31 0.32 0.32	94.7 88.3 89.5 91.1	26.8 23.4 19.3 19.4	3.6 3.6 1.0	10.2 8.7 10.4 10.5	51.9 58.0 63.2 60.8	3.6 1.5 2.1 2.3	1.0	26.8 3.3 10.2 51.9 3.6 1.0 2.2 1.0 23.4 3.6 8.7 58.0 1.5 1.5 2.2 1.9 19.3 1.0 10.4 63.2 2.1 0.9 1.6 1.5 19.4 1.0 10.5 60.8 2.3 1.1 2.1 2.8	1.0 1.9 1.5 2.8

Autothermal cracking of ethane over a Pt/Rh gauze

		C5+	1.4
		C4 's	2.9
lvity		C3 18	0.7
lect		C_2H_2	4.7
XC-mol Selectivity		CO CO ₂ CH ₄ C ₂ H ₄ C ₂ H ₂ C ₃ 's C ₄ 's C ₅₊	57.5
χC-π		CH4	9.7
		C02	1.5
		co	21.7 1.5 9.7 57.5 4.7 0.7 2.9 1.4 16.6 0.7 9.3 67.4 2.1 0.9 2.5 0.5
	(Xmol)		95.8
		02	0.34
C ₂ H ₆ H ₂ N ₂		$0_2 0_2 0_2$	0.64
.C2H6		02	1.73
מאט	2		144286 1.73 0.64 0.34 164429 1.90 1.67 0.38
Fyample			3.7 7.7 7.7

TABLE 8

Autothermal cracking of ethane over a Pt/Pd loaded MULLITE monolith

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		C ₂ H ₆	C2H6 H2 N2	N ₂				χc-u	XC-mol Selectivity	lecti	vity		
Example	CHSV		l	1	Conversion (Xmol)								
		02	$0_2 $	02		္ပ	C02	CH4	CO CO ₂ CH ₄ C ₂ H ₂ C ₃ 's C ₄ 's C ₅₊	C2H2	c3 ts	C4 's	C5+
17 17 97	80124 80071 118407 128018	1.91 - 0.41 2.09 - 0.42 1.83 1.75 0.38 2.24 1.98 0.45	1.91 - 0.41 2.09 - 0.42 1.83 1.75 0.38 2.24 1.98 0.45	0.41 0.42 0.38 0.45	94.7 89.9 96.2 85.2	27.7 2.4 12.3 49.5 3.7 0.7 2.2 1.5 24.4 2.5 10.9 56.4 1.9 0.9 2.1 0.9 23.0 1.0 13.3 52.6 5.6 0.5 2.4 1.6 16.5 0.8 10.1 67.5 1.4 0.9 2.1 0.7	2.4 2.5 1.0 0.8	12.3 10.9 13.3 10.1	27.7 2.4 12.3 49.5 3.7 0.7 2.2 1.5 24.4 2.5 10.9 56.4 1.9 0.9 2.1 0.9 23.0 1.0 13.3 52.6 5.6 0.5 2.4 1.6 16.5 0.8 10.1 67.5 1.4 0.9 2.1 0.7	3.7 1.9 5.6 1.4	0.9	2.2 2.1 2.4 2.4	1.5 0.9 1.6 0.7

Autothermal cracking of ethane over Lithum Aluminium Silicate (LAS) monolith

Claims

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1. A process for the production of a mono-olefin from a gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbon having at least two carbon atoms or a mixture thereof which process comprises partially combusting a mixture of the hydrocarbon or hydrocarbons and a molecular oxygen-containing gas in contact with a catalyst capable of supporting combustion beyond the normal fuel rich limit of flammability.

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst is a supported platinum group metal or a mixture thereof.

3. A process according to either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the platinum group metal is either platinum or palladium.

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- 4. A process according to either claim 2 or claim3 wherein the support is an alumina.
- 5. A process according to claim 2 wherein the support is a monolith.
- 6. A process according to claim 2 wherein the catalyst is platinum/gamma-alumina spheres.
- 7. A process according to claim 2 wherein the catalyst is platinum/cordierite monolith.
- 8. A process according to claim 5 wherein the catalyst is platinum/mullite monolith.
- 9. A process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst is a metallic gauze containing a platinum group metal.
- 10. A process according to claim 1 wherein the gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbon is ethane, propane, butane or a mixture thereof.
 - 11. A process according to claim 10 wherein the molecular oxygen-containing gas is oxygen.
- 12. A process according to claim 11 wherein the composition of the gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbon(s)/molecular oxygen-containing gas mixture is from 5.0 to 9.0 times the stoichiometric ratio of hydrocarbon to oxygen for complete combustion to carbon dioxide and water.
 - 13. A process according to claim 1 wherein hydrogen is co-fed.
 - 14. A process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst is in the form of a fixed bed.
- 15. A process according to claim 1 wherein the mixture is partially combusted at a temperature in the range from 500 to 1200 °C.
 - 16. A process according to claim 15 wherein the temperature is in the range from 800 to 1000 °C.
- 17. A process for the production of ethylene from ethane which process comprises contacting a mixture comprising ethane and oxygen in an ethane to oxygen molar ratio of 1.7 to 2.1 with a platinum -or palladium-containing monolith fixed bed catalyst.

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Publication number:

0 332 289 A3

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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

- 21) Application number: 89301027.2
- 2 Date of filing: 02.02.89

(5) Int. Cl.5: C07C 5/48, C07C 11/04, C07C 11/02

- (3) Priority: 08.03.88 GB 8805447
- 43 Date of publication of application: 13.09.89 Bulletin 89/37
- Designated Contracting States:
 BE DE FR GB IT NL
- Date of deferred publication of the search report:
 19.09.90 Bulletin 90/38
- Applicant: The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. Britannic House Moor Lane London EC2Y 9BU(GB)
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- Representative: Richardson, Derek et al BP INTERNATIONAL LIMITED Patents & Agreements Division Chertsey Road Sunbury-on-Thames Middlesex TW16 7LN(GB)
- (54) A process for the production of mono-olefins by the catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of gaseous paraffinic hydrocarbons having two or more carbon atoms.
- A process for preparing mono-olefins by catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of eg ethane, propane or butanes is provided. The process employs a
 catalyst which is capable of supporting combustion
 beyond the normal fuel rich limit of flammability.
 Preferred catalysts are platinum group metals supported on a monolith eg platinum.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

EP 89 30 1027

]	DOCUMENTS CONSIDER	(ED TO BE RELEVAN)		CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
tegory	Citation of document with indicate of relevant passages	on, where appropriate,	to claim	APPLICATION (Inc. Ct. 4)
X	US-A-3 670 044 (L.E. * abstract; column 2, column 3, lines 1-13;	OREHMAN et al.)	1-4,10-	C 07 C 5/48 C 07 C 11/04 C 07 C 11/02
X	EP-A-O 196 758 (VOP I * abstract; page 11, 1 12, lines 8-13; page 1 claims 1,4 *		1-4,6- 10,11, 13-16	
E	EP-A-0 323 115 (VOP) * abstract; pages 5,6;	claims 1-3,7 *	1-4,10-	
A	US-A-3 793 225 (B.J. * the whole document	BATUS et al.)	1,2	
Α	GB-A-2 203 446 (THE COMPANY) * abstract; claims 1,	STANDARD OIL 3 *		
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A,D	(A	OKAGAMI et al.)	1	C 07 C 5/00 C 07 C 11/00
A	JOURNAL OF CATALYSTS vol. 46, 1977, pages Press, Inc.; F.M. AS Oxidative Dehydrogen Propylene" * the who	424-425, Academic HMAURY: "Catalytic ation of Propane to	1-4	
	The present search report has l	neen drawn up for all claims		Exsusiner
-	Place of scarch	Date of completion of the sem		RUFET J.M.A.
8	BERLIN			
O FORM 1503 03.82 (P0401)	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMI X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with a document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document	E : earlier pa after the D : documen L : documen	filing date t cited in the ap t cited for other of the same pat	ying the invention but published on, or eplication reasons ent family, corresponding



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

89 30 1027

Category	Citation of document with i of relevant pa	indication, where appropriate, assages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Α .	237, abstract no. 2 Ohio, US; T.G. ALAN "Catalytic cleaning from the production	IOVA et al.:	1,2,10,	
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	The present search report has b	peen drawn up for all claims	·	
BE	Place of search	Date of completion of the search 25-06-1990		Examiner T J.M.A.
X : par Y : par	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUME ticularly relevant if taken alone licularly relevant if combined with an ument of the same category prophogical background	E : earlier pate after the fil other D : document c L : document c	ited in the application ited for other reasons	ished on, or
O : nor	ument of the same caregory nological background n-written disclosure rmediate.document	& : member of	the same patent famil	y, corresponding

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